

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kenneth S. Wales et al. : Paper No:

Serial No. 10/615,971 : Group Art Unit: 3721

Filed: July 9, 2003 : Examiner: Paul S. Durand

For: SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING ARTICULATION JOINT
SUPPORT PLATES FOR SUPPORTING A FIRING BAR

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, Applicant herewith submits certain patent references and other information, which the Patent & Trademark Office may wish to consider in examining the above-identified application. The references and information are provided below, and are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

<u>REFERENCES</u>	<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>INVENTOR</u>
5,456,684	10-10-1995	Schmidt et al.
5,562,682	10-08-1996	Oberlin et al.
6,330,965	12-18-2001	Milliman et al.
2001/021859	09-13-2001	Toshikazu et al.
<u>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT</u>		
WO 01/00095	01-04-2001	La Precision, Lange

A copy of the foreign patent is enclosed. Pursuant to the waiver published in the Pre-OG Notice, dated July 11, 2003, no copies are provided herewith of U.S. patents cited. No representation is made or intended that a prior art search has been made or that no better art than the listed is available. It is respectfully requested that the information be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the present application.

A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed as the fee for filing the Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner for Patents is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Frost Brown Todd LLC Deposit Account No. 06-2226.





Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth S. Wales et al.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that a copy of this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Regular U.S. mail in an envelope addressed to MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 this 2nd day of May, 2005.

Elizabeth A. Middleton



Substitute for Form PTO 1449							
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known			
				Application No.	10/615,971		
				Filing Date	July 9, 2003		
				First Named Inventor	Kenneth S. Wales		
				Art Unit	3721		
				Examiner Name	Paul S. Durand		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket No.	END910.0511041		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner initials	Cite No.	DOCUMENT NUMBER Number-Kind code ² (if known)		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
		US-	5,456,684	10-10-1995	Schmidt et al.	Col. 4, line 55-62; fig. 1	
		US-	5,562,682	10-08-1996	Oberlin et al.	Col 2, line 1-14; figs. 5, 5A; Col. 5, line 50-Col. 6, line 7; claim 1	
		US-	6,330,965	12-18-2001	Milliman et al.	Col. 15, line 21-64; figs. 57, 60, 61	
		US-	2001/021859	09-13-2001	Toshikazu et al.	Par. [0060]; figs. 9, 10	
		US-					
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind code ⁵ (if known)		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures	T ⁶
		WO 01/00095		01-04-2001	La Precision, Lange	Page 8, line 14-34, fig. 3	
OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS							
Examiner initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published					T ⁶

CinLibrary 0021680.0511041 1501930v.1

EXAMINER SIGNATURE _____ DATE CONSIDERED _____
 EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.